



# CITY OF TUCSON



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## NEWS RELEASE

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Roberto A. Villaseñor  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 2/7/2012  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### GEM THEFT 1031 EAST BENSON HIGHWAY

On February 7, 2012 at approximately 7:50 a.m., the Tucson Police Department received a 911 call reporting the theft of gemstones from a trailer at the Motel 6, located at 1031 East Benson Highway. Officers from Operations Division South responded to the location and contacted the victims, who are gem and mineral vendors from Washington. The victims reported that approximately 1,900 gems were stolen from a locked cargo trailer sometime between 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2012 and 7:30 a.m. today. The victims reported an estimated wholesale value of the stolen gems, described as very rare Oregon Sunstones, to be between \$800,000 and \$900,000.

Detectives from the Burglary Unit responded to continue the investigation at the scene. The gems had been stored inside a locked cargo trailer since the victims had packed up their displays on Sunday evening. This morning, as they were loading up to leave town, the victims discovered that the locks had been cut and the trailer door had been forced open. Several grey duffel bag-style cases and a wheeled suitcase-style bag were taken from the trailer. Each contained several black and glass display boxes filled with gemstones. The stones are unique and rare, including both carved and more traditional faceted stones. The carved stones included free-form carvings as well as some resembling other objects, such as flowers. Some of the faceted stones have "linear-cuts" on the bottom surface in addition to the traditional facets. The stones range in color from reddish-brown to blue-green.

Images of similar stones are included below. These are not the actual stones taken in the incident.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

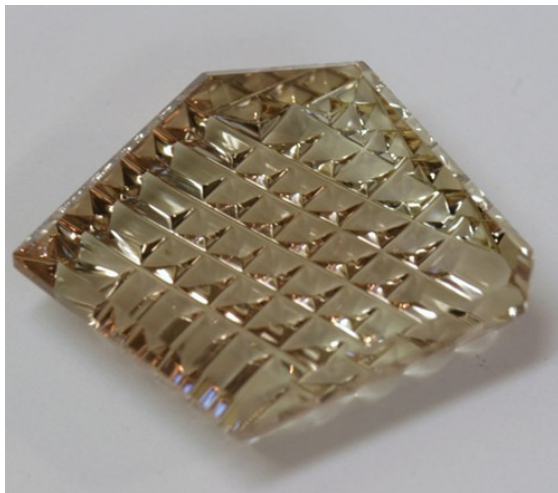
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The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about this theft to call **911** or **88-CRIME**.

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